

Subject: [FWD: Our Valley News, Jan. 15]
From: <aaron@urbanplaceconsulting.com>
Date: 01/15/2016 06:00 PM
To: Brian.Lammert@securitasinc.com

Hey,

Read the first note, something to note on graffiti vandals.

----- Original Message -----

Subject: Our Valley News, Jan. 15
From: "Paul Krekorian, Councilmember"
<councilmember.krekorian@lacity.org>
Date: Fri, January 15, 2016 6:45 pm
To: aaron@urbanplaceconsulting.com

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Dear Friend:

Graffiti is a huge problem throughout Los Angeles. It impacts businesses, billboards, schools, public places and our homes. Some vandals even deface beautiful murals and public art pieces. The destruction and defacement of murals and spaces in our neighborhoods leaves a lasting effect on our quality of life.

I'm proud to report that this week the City Council unanimously voted to approve my anti-graffiti law to keep our communities clean, beautiful and safe. The new law will crackdown on graffiti crimes by doubling the reward for information leading to the arrest and conviction of graffiti vandals from \$1,000 to \$2,000 in each case.

No one wants graffiti defacing their neighborhood. I hope this new law discourages taggers by putting them on notice that they will be prosecuted and encourages residents to help us prevent them from vandalizing our communities.

In the Second District, I launched a community campaign to remove graffiti blight from our neighborhoods and to ask residents to do their part by reporting graffiti vandalism. Over the course of a year, the campaign -- #NoTag CD2 -- has made a dent in graffiti vandalism in the southeast San Fernando Valley. Many people have contacted my office by phone, email and social media to notify me when they see graffiti vandalism. My team then jumps into gear to get the graffiti removed in less than 48 hours.

Last year, our community campaign was responsible for the removal of nearly 1.3 million square feet of graffiti from 28,000 locations. As chair of the Budget and Finance committee, I also helped allocate \$7.5 million in the 2015-2016 budget to remove graffiti from our neighborhoods.

Our collective efforts are making a difference in this fight, but we can only succeed in stamping out graffiti blight if we keep working together both in City Hall and in our neighborhoods.

Very truly yours,

 PK Signature

Councilmember Paul Krekorian, District 2

TOP STORIES

LA Sets Record As Tourism Hot Spot



LOS ANGELES - The City of Angels announced record-breaking numbers in tourism growth for its fifth consecutive year. In 2015, LA welcomed 45.5 million visitors, a 1.3 million increase from 2014.

According to the Los Angeles Tourism and Convention Board, the city's growth in the tourism sector continues to rise amid major infrastructure upgrades to LA's skyline, its expanding transit network and the modernization of LAX. More than 6.7 million international visitors chose LA as their destination, with a 13 percent increase in tourism from China to LA and an 11 percent increase in visitors from South Korea.

"Whether it's the sunny beaches and scenic landscape, our diverse communities and cuisines, or the lure of movie magic, our city has something to offer everyone who visits," said Councilmember Krekorian. "We're making tremendous investments into LA's future as a modern global city that is transit friendly, open for business and celebrates innovation."

LAFD Is Saving Lives



LA firefighters battled a structure fire last June at a Toluca Lake apartment building. | Photo by Mike Meadows

LOS ANGELES - The Los Angeles Fire Dept. reported a 54 percent drop in structure fire-related fatalities in 2015. The statistic accounts for 11 structure fire-related civilian deaths last year.

In 2014, the LAFD developed the Smoke Alarm Field Education (SAFE) Program as a result of a series of fire-related fatalities. The program is deployed immediately following a serious injury or fatality residential structure fire. Teams of LAFD firefighters canvas homes in the affected neighborhood to provide safety information, check existing smoke alarms, and distribute new smoke alarms and batteries to households in need. In 2015, the LAFD also partnered with MySafe:LA, a non-profit fire and life safety organization.

In addition to the smoke alarm program, the LAFD Community Risk Reduction Section will soon roll out a new CPR education campaign and a safety assessment program to reduce injuries among the elderly.

Councilmember Krekorian, who chairs the Budget and Finance committee, has led the effort to restore fire services, improve the department's resources and response times and ensure

greater public safety. In the 2015-2016 fiscal year, the City Council approved an additional \$55 million for the LAFD, including millions for fire safety equipment, more ambulances and technology upgrades.

Sharing the Burden to Prepare for the Big One



Earthquake damage during the 1994 disaster. | Photo: Wikimedia

LOS ANGELES - The City Council passed an agreement to approve cost-sharing between building owners and tenants that will lead to retrofitting buildings with mandatory earthquake safety upgrades.

The decision came after multiple housing studies by city officials and a year of community meetings with stakeholders, engineers, tenant groups and owners to propose the cost compromise. Building owners can only pass half of the retrofit costs to tenants through rent increases over a 10-year period, with a maximum increase of \$38 per month.

The move follows last year's passage of LA's historic earthquake safety law, which aims to retrofit nearly 15,000 buildings in the city with seismic safety measures. The Dept. of Building and Safety is finalizing the list of buildings that must comply with the new law.

"This policy will dramatically increase our city's preparedness for future earthquakes and save people's lives," said Councilmember Krekorian. "As we witnessed in the 1994 Northridge quake, soft-story buildings are vulnerable to damage and destruction when an earthquake hits, putting people and property in grave danger. Our city is moving toward a fair and sensible seismic retrofitting mandate that will both increase the safety of our residents and the health of our infrastructure."

CITY SPOTLIGHT

Get Involved in Your Neighborhood Council This Election Season

LOS ANGELES - The LA City Clerk is accepting applications for candidates in the 2016 Neighborhood Council elections from now through April 26.



To get involved and run for a seat on your local Neighborhood Council, read the candidate registration guidelines and [learn what it means to be a candidate](#).

Neighborhood Councils play an integral role in increasing civic engagement in LA's communities. From having decision-making powers on community planning, neighborhood safety, park and street improvements to supporting local schools, emergency planning and organizing community events, NC members work in close partnership with city leaders to affect change in their neighborhoods.

This year, the Dept. of Neighborhood Empowerment is also launching an online voting pilot program for 35 of the city's 96 neighborhood councils, which will allow voters to register in advance of the election day and vote from a desktop computer, a tablet or a smart phone. To register online for your neighborhood council elections, visit empowerla.org/vrp.

For more information about the NC elections, visit empowerla.org/elections.

COMMUNITY CORNER

Tips On Being a Good Neighbor



LOS ANGELES - Are you hearing noisy pets or seeing bulky items on sidewalks or in alleyways? Are trash bins left out all week on the street? Are there abandoned cars in your community? If you spot problems in your local neighborhood, learn how you can connect with city departments and services to keep the community clean, safe and livable.

Did you know property owners or other occupants are responsible for keeping the sidewalk in front of their house, place of business or premises, free of trash, overgrown vegetation and

debris? The Bureau of Street Services street-use division can assist if you have questions. Call 3-1-1 to find out more.

Did you know a household is allowed a maximum of five two-day yard sales a year and sale items must be used (not new merchandise)? Sales are also not allowed on the sidewalks or streets and hours are limited from 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. If you have more questions about hosting a yard sale, call the City Clerk's Office of Finance in the Valley area at (818) 374-6850 for more information.

Did you know car alarms must be silenced within five minutes of sounding and leaf blowers may not be used before 7 a.m.? To report loud noises or similar issues, contact 311 or call the LAPD non-emergency hotline: (877) 275-5273.

In future issues of *Our Valley News*, we'll continue to bring you more tips and information on how to enhance the quality of life in your neighborhood.

PHOTOS OF THE WEEK



The LA City Council celebrated Korean American Day in Los Angeles. | Photo: CD2



Councilmember Krekorian partnered with CicLAvia to get William, a young victim of the 2014 San Fernando Valley Rescue Mission fire, a brand new bike for the holidays. | Photo: CD2

EVENTS



Loan Modification Scams and Foreclosure Prevention Symposium

Saturday, Jan. 23, 9:30 a.m. to 1 p.m.

Van Nuys High School

6536 Cedros Ave.

Van Nuys, CA 91411

Learn about how to prevent home foreclosure and how to avoid loan modification scams with two great workshops this month hosted by the LA City Attorney's Office. Talk to experts, get legal aid and learn how you can navigate through the loan processes. For more information, visit bit.ly/1OKiZr4 or call (213) 978-8051.



Eyes on Trafficking

Sunday, Jan. 24, 5 p.m. to 10 p.m.

National Council of Jewish Women

543 N. Fairfax Ave.

Los Angeles 90036



Join the Human Trafficking Outreach Project for a community outreach training and rally to take a stand against human trafficking in Los Angeles County and to raise awareness by educating local businesses. For more information, call (323) 852-8536.

[Click to view all the upcoming events on Our Valley's Community Calendar.](#)

Forward to a Friend

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Councilmember Paul Krekorian, 200 N. Spring St., Room 435, Los Angeles, CA 90012

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